



Hello Friends,

The typical day in the Capitol is filled with legislation, debates, briefings, and press conferences. But every so often, we have an opportunity to do something that resonates on a very personal level. And these past few weeks, I have had the chance to be part of two important, but very different, efforts to raise awareness.

First, I am proud to be the principal co-author for a resolution, led by Senator Carole Migden, to push for more funding for Juvenile Diabetes Research. When **Allison Perkins-Thomas** of the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) in Bakersfield** said they needed a sponsor of the resolution in the Assembly, I jumped on it. I have joined JDRF walk-a-thons in the past, and I am delighted to help in this new capacity. I ask you to visit www.jdrf.org to find out how you can make a difference.

The other occasion was honoring **Daljinder Chauhan** as the 30th Assembly District nominee for the **California Small Business Association's annual awards day**. Mr. Chauhan owns a number of gas stations and convenience stores in **Kern** and **Tulare Counties**. More importantly, he is a leader in the community. The event recognizes the importance of small businesses to the economy of the state. Mr. Chauhan and the other honorees were hand-selected by Legislators for their dedication and service within the district. I am proud that Daljinder Chauhan represents just one of many small business owners that comprise the 30th Assembly District.

What's Happening in Sacramento

The California Department of Education has announced the list of exemplary public schools under the **California School Recognition Program**. I am pleased to announce that **Roosevelt Elementary (Kingsburg)** received a 2007 Blue Ribbon nomination. In addition, **Laton High (Laton)** and **Pioneer Middle School (Hanford)** were named 2007 Distinguished Middle and High Schools. These schools will be formally presented with awards at a special ceremony later this month. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs>

This month, the **Department of Child Support Services** began the seventeen-month process for

converting all local child support agencies onto the new **child support automation system**. This system will allow statewide access to all child support participation and case information. Counties will be converted incrementally. For the **30th Assembly District**, Kings County will be added in November 2007 and Fresno County in July 2008. Tulare and Kern counties will be added in August 2008.

The **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant** competition supports efforts by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to improve and strengthen their **school emergency management plans**, including training school personnel and students in emergency response procedures; communicating emergency plans and procedures with parents; and coordinating with local law enforcement, public safety, public health, and mental health agencies. Deadline is May 21. The application may be found at: www.ed.gov/programs/dvpemergencyresponse/index.html

My Legislative Highlights

Both **AB 441** and **AB 994** passed the Assembly with overwhelming bi-partisan support and now head to the State Senate. AB 441 will ensure persons convicted of the sale of methamphetamine, who are granted probation, will serve at least 120 days in the county jail. AB 994 would establish a state purchase preference for solid wood products originating from California's forests.

I was also pleased to enjoy the **support of Governor Schwarzenegger for my class-action reform bill – AB 1505**. This bill would have helped put an end to frivolous lawsuits, while maintaining consumer rights and protections. AB 1505 was also supported by numerous business and legal organizations. Unfortunately, the Governor's support was not enough to help get this bill out of the Judiciary Committee. But serious reform of any major issue is always a long road.

Thank you to the **Great Valley Center** for inviting me to share my legislation, and join a broader discussion of policy issues, during a visit by their **IDEAL Leadership Class**. The mission of the Institute for the Development of Emerging Area Leaders (IDEAL) is to strengthen local capacity for effective public policy decision-making impacting the economic, social and environmental future of California's Central Valley. Many community leaders came up to Sacramento as part of the program. www.greatvalley.org/ideal/index.aspx

Constituents Visit Sacramento

As part of day long activities to support and education elected officials and the public on the needs of **children in foster care**, I welcomed the **Kern County Department of Human Services** to my office. I am fortunate to serve on the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care, and greatly appreciate the efforts of parents and professional associated with foster care. I urge everyone to visit their **"Heart Gallery Tour"** at various places in Kern County. Call (661) 633-7104 for details on dates and locations. www.kcdhs.org/FosterFamilyResources

Friends from the **Bakersfield City School District** and **Visalia Unified School District** visited as

part of the **California School Nutrition Association's** Annual Legislative Day. With the vast majority of school kids receiving lunch, and often breakfast, at school, it is critical that they get the healthy meals they need to learn, grow, and achieve. www.calsna.org

Thank you to the **Kern Law Enforcement Association, Fresno Police Officers Association, Peace Officers Research Association, and Retired Peace Officers Association** for sitting with me to discuss the many issues and concerns currently before them. Public safety continues to be one of my top priorities and I am proud to continue working with law enforcement agencies on many topics.

Finally, I was pleased to set up a tour of the Capitol for students of **Avenal High School's "Close-Up"** program. This unique program is designed to give student's studying government a first-hand look at both Sacramento and Washington, DC. **Matt Bunch**, a member of my policy staff and graduate of Avenal High School, spoke with the students about our legislative process.

In the District

One of my favorite events of the year has quickly become the **Garden Tea Party** that I host in **Bakersfield** to honor local women who contribute so much to our **Kern County** communities. This year, we have twelve extraordinary women who continually give of themselves for the benefit and improvement of their communities. I want to thank all of the **sponsors** who contributed to making this year's event a very special occasion.

I also enjoyed the opportunity to chat with **Police Chief Tommy Tunson of the Arvin Police Department**. Arvin is expecting a lot of growth and development over the next couple of decades and the Police Department is working diligently to address immediate concerns, while also planning for the City's growth and additional residents.

While in Kern County, I visited the **Bakersfield Association for Retarded Children (BARC)**. Jim Baldwin and his fine staff continue to provide amazing educational and work services for persons with developmental disabilities. Now, BARC is also engaged in an innovative professional development program to give their employees greater training and resources to be the premier direct support professionals around. www.barc-inc.org

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
Suite B
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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